

Bedfordshire County Council

---

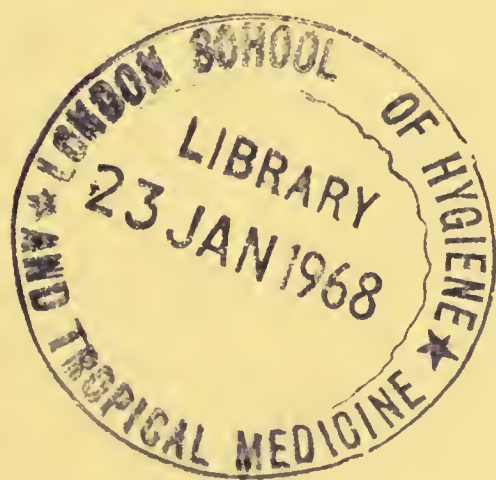
# REPORT

*of the*

Medical Officer of Health

*for the year*

1949





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28913942>

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION ... ..	2
STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ... ..	4
SECTION I: STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA ... ..	5
Population ... ..	6
Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1949 ... ..	9
Births ... ..	12
Stillbirths ... ..	12
Deaths ... ..	12
Infant Mortality ... ..	20
Maternal Mortality ... ..	21
Social Conditions ... ..	22
SECTION II: GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA ... ..	23
Care of Mothers and Young Children ... ..	24
Dental Treatment ... ..	29
Midwives Service ... ..	30
Health Visiting ... ..	32
Home Nursing ... ..	32
Vaccination and Immunisation ... ..	33
Ambulance Service ... ..	35
Prevention of Illness: Care and After-Care ... ..	36
Domestic Help Service ... ..	37
Mental Health Service ... ..	37
Nursing Homes ... ..	38
SECTION III: PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES ... ..	39
Notifiable Diseases ... ..	40
Tuberculosis ... ..	45
Venereal Diseases ... ..	46
SECTION IV: INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD ... ..	49
Milk ... ..	50
Other Food ... ..	53
Merchandise Marks Acts ... ..	54
SECTION V: RURAL HOUSING ... ..	55
INDEX ... ..	59



## To the Chairman and Members of the Bedfordshire County Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the year 1949, which was the first full year of operation of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The year brought with it much work, and the department was continuously working under pressure. The services were maintained, however, and indeed, in some directions, extended. Additional child welfare facilities were provided in several parts of the County, while at Biggleswade and Leighton Buzzard two major projects were undertaken. The dental service was re-inforced by the recruitment of one full-time and one part-time dental officer, but the staff is still very inadequate. In the introduction to the 1948 Report the following sentence occurred: "The lack of adequate personnel for the dental treatment of mothers and children, including school children, is a severe blow to the public health and there appears to be little prospect of improvement in the near future unless the administrative and professional bodies are prepared to take the necessary steps." The Report of the United Kingdom Dental Mission on New Zealand School Dental Nurses (August 1950) is one indication that administrative bodies are prepared to consider changes, but the outcome must be awaited. There is, moreover, a field of work for which Oral Hygienists may be recruited. These two developments give some hope that in time it may be possible to establish a really adequate Local Authority dental service, which will promote the public health to a considerable degree.

The Vital Statistics may be regarded as reasonably satisfactory, if the figures for England and Wales are taken as a criterion. Indeed, the infant mortality rate gives cause for much satisfaction. It fell to 26·6, which is the lowest ever recorded in Bedfordshire and is well below that for England and Wales. It is disappointing to report that the maternal mortality and the stillbirth rates were rather higher than those for England and Wales, but it must be pointed out that the numbers of cases from which the rates were calculated were small, and, for that reason, great care is necessary in assessing their significance. They are, however, one index of the quality of obstetric care and as such they should be carefully examined.

With regard to Causes of Death, it will be seen that Heart Disease still heads the list. There appears to be an increase in the number of deaths due to Coronary Thrombosis, and the statistics so far published show that medical practitioners are its most frequent victims. Tuberculosis shows a downward trend and it is not unreasonable to hope that in Bedfordshire this will continue, provided that the scarcities and irregularities experienced during the last war do not recur.

In last year's Report reference was made to the administrative changes consequent on the passing of the National Health Service Act, 1946. It was pointed out that there were no less than three administrative bodies which might have duties towards a patient during a single illness. There

have been no significant changes since that time, and there are some medical administrators who feel that certain changes are necessary if administrative failures are to be avoided. There is, for example, an unfortunate division of responsibility for tuberculosis and the infectious diseases.

The Midwifery and Home Nursing Services were able to meet all the demands made upon them. The home nurses were called upon to attend an increasing number of patients who in former days would have occupied hospital beds. This is a matter which deserves careful consideration for a number of reasons, and it would be advantageous to consider with it the Domestic Help Service.

The Mental Health Service in its new form had its first full year of operation. The experience gained showed clearly that the essentials of a sound service are present. It is hoped that it will be possible in the future to devote more attention to the prevention of mental illness, an activity which must be closely associated with the general medical practitioners and psychiatrists.

During the year the Health Education Officer, who had taken up duty in December 1948, was able to prepare schemes and to put some of them into operation. This is a most important branch of Public Health, and one from which in the fullness of time much may be expected.

Again I am indebted to the members of the Authority for their sympathetic consideration of proposals put before them, and once more I acknowledge the considerable help so freely given by voluntary bodies. I also acknowledge with gratitude the excellent spirit of co-operation shown by officers of the Hospital Service and the Executive Council, and by the medical practitioners themselves, and not least, I am grateful to the members of the Public Health staff, professional and lay, for their steady work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD,

*County Medical Officer of Health.*

Shire Hall,  
Bedford.

January, 1951.



## STAFF

as at 31st December, 1949

### *County Medical Officer of Health*

W. C. V. BROTHWOOD, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

### *Deputy County Medical Officer of Health*

C. A. HARVEY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

### *Divisional Medical Officers*

G. K. BOWES, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

R. M. DYKES, M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (APPTD. 9.10.49)

C. A. HARVEY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

H. E. C. SUTTON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

### *Senior Assistant County Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare*

ELIZABETH E. BROWN, M.B., CH.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

### *Assistant County Medical Officers*

BRENDA N. AKEROYD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

DORA S. JAMES, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G.

IRENE E. SANDFORD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CICELY STEER, M.B., B.S., D.C.H.

ANNE F. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

### *Chest Physicians (part-time)*

J. B. SHAW, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

N. R. WYNN-WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

### *Senior Dental Surgeon*

R. B. T. DINSDALE, L.D.S.

### *Assistant Dental Surgeons*

A. P. ATKINS, L.D.S.

GLADYS M. BASFORD, L.D.S. (PART-TIME. APPTD. 21.11.49)

A. A. GARDNER, B.D.S. (APPTD. 22.11.49)

V. A. VASEY, L.D.S.

### *County Sanitary Officer*

R. E. N. THOMAS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P.H.H.

### *County Nursing Officer*

FLORENCE M. TOMBS, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s CERT.

### *Superintendent Domiciliary Nursing*

LUCY F. VINCENT GOODMAN, S.R.N.

### *County Analyst*

A. LICKORISH, F.I.C.

**SECTION I**

---

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS  
OF THE AREA**

## GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the geographical and administrative County is approximately 302,942 acres (474 square miles). Its greatest length is from North to South and is  $36\frac{1}{2}$  miles; its greatest breadth is  $22\frac{1}{2}$  miles from East to West.

The County contains no County Boroughs but includes the three Non-County Boroughs of Bedford, Dunstable and Luton. There are, in addition, five Urban Districts and four Rural Districts.

At the 1st April, 1949, the rateable value was £1,793,438. The product of a penny rate for 1948-49 was, for general County purposes, £7,185. The estimated figure for 1949-50 is £7,201.

## POPULATION

NOTE.—The statistical information contained in the remainder of this Section is based on figures supplied by the Registrar General.

The estimated resident civilian populations of the County Districts at 30th June, 1949, were as follows:—

URBAN DISTRICTS—					<i>Persons</i>
Ampthill	...	...	...	...	2,780
Bedford	...	...	...	...	52,990
Biggleswade	...	...	...	...	7,400
Dunstable	...	...	...	...	17,110
Kempston	...	...	...	...	8,800
Leighton Buzzard	...	...	...	...	8,710
Luton	...	...	...	...	109,240
Sandy	...	...	...	...	3,650
Aggregate of Urban Districts					210,680
RURAL DISTRICTS—					
Ampthill	...	...	...	...	22,190
Bedford	...	...	...	...	27,740
Biggleswade	...	...	...	...	22,340
Luton	...	...	...	...	18,970
Aggregate of Rural Districts					91,240
The County					301,920



The population of the County, according to the 1931 Census, was 220,525. In 1939, the estimated resident population was 265,540. By the middle of 1941, partly because of war-time conditions, this figure rose to 307,930. It then declined until 1945, when the estimated resident civilian population at the 30th June was 278,500.

Since that date, the civilian population has increased each year. It will be seen from Table I that only part of this has been a natural increase (i.e., excess of births over deaths). An indication of what has been happening can be obtained by comparing the figures in columns 2 and 5 although it must be borne in mind that the annual periods for population and natural increase are not the same. Approximately three-fifths of the total increase since 1945 may be attributed to a flow of population into the County. The rate of increase experienced in previous years was not maintained in 1949.

With the exception of Biggleswade Rural District (where there was an estimated decrease of 20) all the County Districts shared in the increase in civilian population during the twelve months ended 30th June, 1949. In addition to the civilian population of 301,920, there were 5,430 service personnel stationed in the County at that date, giving a total population of 307,350.

TABLE I—ESTIMATED INCREASE IN POPULATION COMPARED WITH  
NATURAL INCREASE, 1945-49

Year	Estimated Resident Civilian Population (Mid-year)	Increase over previous year	Births registered during calendar year ★	Deaths registered during calendar year ★	Natural increase in population i.e. (3)-(4)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1945	278,500	—	5,135	3,061	2,074
1946	284,820	6,320	5,416	3,141	2,275
1947	292,810	7,990	6,000	3,208	2,792
1948	298,715	5,905	5,227	2,974	2,253
1949	301,920	3,205	5,031	3,275	1,756

★ Adjusted for inward and outward transfers.

In the Annual Report for 1948, details were given of the estimated sex age distribution of the civilian population of the County at the 31st December, 1947. The Registrar General has not published any later estimates of a similar nature but he has estimated the number of children under 15 years of age in each of the County Districts at the 30th June, 1949. The information is set out overleaf.



## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1949

		<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>			
LIVE BIRTHS:							
Legitimate ...	4,787	2,418	2,369	Birth Rate per			
Illegitimate ...	244	142	102	1,000 estimated			
				population mid-			
				1949 ...			16.7
STILLBIRTHS ...	122	60	62	Rate per 1,000			
				total (live and still)			
				births ...			23.7
DEATHS ...	3,275	1,641	1,634	Crude Death Rate			
				per 1,000 estimated			
				civilian population			10.8
MATERNAL DEATHS:							
Puerperal sepsis ...	...	...	1	Death Rate per			
Other puerperal causes	...	...	5	1,000 total (live			
			—	and still) births ...			1.16
	TOTAL	...	6				
			==				
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:							
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births					...	...	26.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					...	...	36.9
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	507
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10



TABLE II—NUMBER OF BIRTHS, INFANT DEATHS AND STILLBIRTHS REGISTERED DURING 1949 (SUBDIVIDED ACCORDING TO LEGITIMACY), TOGETHER WITH THE APPROPRIATE RATES FOR EACH OF THE COUNTY DISTRICTS

DISTRICTS	LIVE BIRTHS				DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE				STILLBIRTHS			
	Legitimate	Ille- gitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 civilian population	Legitimate	Ille- gitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 live births	Legitimate	Ille- gitimate	Total	Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)
URBAN:												
Ampthill	43	5	48	17.3	1	—	1	20.8	1	—	1	20.4
Bedford	756	44	800	15.1	19	2	21	26.3	11	3	14	17.2
Biggleswade	118	6	124	16.8	1	1	2	16.1	—	—	—	—
Dunstable	266	13	279	16.3	12	—	12	43.0	8	—	8	27.9
Kempston	136	7	143	16.3	3	—	3	21.0	7	—	7	46.7
L. Buzzard	179	9	188	21.6	5	1	6	31.9	3	—	3	15.7
Luton	1,735	86	1,821	16.7	47	1	48	26.4	47	2	49	26.0
Sandy	49	5	54	14.8	1	—	1	18.5	1	—	1	18.2
TOTALS	3,282	175	3,457	16.3	89	5	94	27.2	78	5	83	23.5
RURAL:												
Ampthill	401	10	411	18.5	10	2	12	29.2	16	1	17	39.7
Bedford	441	23	464	16.7	14	2	16	34.5	6	2	8	16.9
Biggleswade	346	20	366	16.4	4	—	4	10.9	6	—	6	16.1
Luton	317	16	333	17.6	8	—	8	24.0	7	1	8	23.5
TOTALS	1,505	69	1,574	17.3	36	4	40	25.4	35	4	39	24.2
GRAND TOTALS ..	4,787	244	5,031	16.7	125	9	134	26.6	113	9	122	23.7

TABLE III—BIRTH, INFANT MORTALITY AND STILLBIRTH RATES FOR URBAN AND RURAL AREAS OF COUNTY,  
WHOLE COUNTY AND ENGLAND AND WALES, 1944-49

YEAR	BIRTH RATES PER 1,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION				INFANT MORTALITY RATES				STILLBIRTH RATES			
	Urban Districts	Rural Districts	Whole County	England and Wales†	Urban Districts	Rural Districts	Whole County	England and Wales§	Urban Districts	Rural Districts	Whole County	England and Wales‡
1944	21.8	18.9	20.9	19.9	34.3	37.8	35.2	46	27.9	30.6	28.7	27.7
1945	18.9	17.2	18.4	17.8	33.4	35.8	34.1	46	27.0	25.3	26.5	27.6
1946	19.3	18.3	19.0	20.2	35.2	32.7	34.5	43	31.6	24.3	29.6	27.2
1947	20.9	19.9	20.6	21.1	32.1	27.0	30.7	41	21.2	23.5	21.8	24.1
1948	17.6	17.4	17.5	18.1	29.2	31.4	29.8	34	20.3	18.2	19.7	23.2
1949	16.3	17.3	16.7	*	27.2	25.4	26.6	32	23.5	24.2	23.7	22.6

\* Figure not available.

† Rate refers to births occurring during calendar year.

‡ Rate refers to stillbirths occurring during calendar year.

§ Rate per 1,000 related births.

## BIRTHS

5,031 births attributable to Bedfordshire residents were registered during 1949. The distribution of these births amongst the County Districts is shown in Table II, together with the corresponding birth-rates per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population. It will be seen that the birth-rate for the County was 16·7 which is lower than that of 17·5 for 1948. It remains, however, higher than the rate of 15·4 in 1939.

Table III shows the birth-rates for the Urban and Rural Areas of the County, for the County as a whole, and for England and Wales during the past six years. It should be noted that the rates for England and Wales are calculated as the births occurring during the year per 1,000 of the civilian population. As, however, most births are now registered soon after they occur, there is unlikely to be any appreciable difference between the number of births occurring and the number registered in a year.

## ILLEGITIMACY

The illegitimate live births numbered 244 (142 males and 102 females) during 1949, compared with 307 for the previous year, and constituted 4·8 per cent of the total live births. In England and Wales, 5·0 per cent of the live births in 1949 were illegitimate.

## STILLBIRTHS

The term stillbirth refers to any child born after the 28th week of pregnancy which did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother, breathe or show any other signs of life. It will be seen in Table II that there were 122 stillbirths attributable to Bedfordshire residents during 1949, giving a stillbirth rate of 23·7 per thousand total births (live and still) as compared with the low rate of 19·7 in 1948. Table III shows the stillbirth rates for the Urban and Rural Areas of the County, for the County as a whole, and for England and Wales during the past six years.

## DEATHS

The number of deaths registered during 1949 of civilians whose usual residence was in the County was 3,275, compared with 2,974 in 1948. The crude death-rate per 1,000 resident civilian population was 10·8 as against 10·0 in the previous year. The causes of death in the Sanitary Districts and the County as a whole are shown in Table IV. Table V shows the causes of death at different periods of life in the County, and in the Urban and Rural Areas.

The sex distribution of the deaths was as follows:—

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Urban Districts	...	...	1,138	1,104	2,242
Rural Districts	...	...	503	530	1,033
Administrative County	...		1,641	1,634	3,275



TABLE IV—CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE SANITARY DISTRICTS, 1949

CAUSE OF DEATH	Administrative County	URBAN DISTRICTS									RURAL DISTRICTS				
		Ampthill	Bedford	Biggleswade	Dunstable	Kempston	Leighton Buzzard	Luton	Sandy	TOTAL	Ampthill	Bedford	Biggleswade	Luton	TOTAL
typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
rebro-Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
arlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
whooping Cough ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
phtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
tuberculosis of Resp. System ...	97	3	15	2	1	1	2	51	2	77	5	4	5	6	20
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	19	—	4	1	1	2	3	4	—	15	—	1	1	2	4
philitic Diseases ...	12	—	—	—	2	—	1	7	—	10	—	1	—	1	2
luenza ...	33	—	8	1	3	1	1	7	—	21	—	5	3	4	12
Measles ...	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	1
Poliomyel. and Polioenceph. ...	4	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	2
Infect. Enceph. ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer: B. Cav., Mesoph. (M) Uterus (F) ...	52	—	13	1	3	2	—	14	—	33	7	9	1	2	19
Cancer, Stomach and Duodenum ...	69	—	14	2	3	3	1	21	1	45	4	9	7	4	24
Cancer of Breast ...	58	—	10	2	3	1	2	21	1	40	5	5	3	5	18
Cancer of all other sites ...	328	3	59	8	20	9	10	105	10	224	29	29	30	16	104
Diabetes ...	28	—	8	1	2	1	1	7	1	21	1	4	1	1	7
Para-cranial Vasc. Lesions ...	364	6	66	9	20	11	7	115	3	237	27	46	33	21	127
Heart Disease ...	964	19	192	24	45	28	33	297	15	653	87	98	77	49	311
Other Diseases Circ. System ...	118	1	33	1	7	6	5	26	3	82	5	20	6	5	36
Trachitis ...	176	1	33	5	10	4	5	62	3	123	15	8	18	12	53
Pneumonia ...	123	2	21	2	10	3	7	41	—	86	12	19	4	2	37
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	44	—	10	—	4	2	2	10	—	28	4	6	4	2	16
Other of Stomach or Duodenum ...	39	1	5	2	1	—	2	20	1	32	2	3	1	1	7
Dysentery, under 2 yrs.	10	—	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	7	2	—	1	—	3
Appendicitis ...	13	—	—	1	—	—	1	9	—	11	—	1	—	1	2
Other Digestive Diseases ...	71	—	7	2	4	2	4	24	1	44	6	9	6	6	27
Cholera ...	70	2	16	1	6	3	2	29	—	59	6	3	1	1	11
Septic and Post-sept. Sepsis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Maternal Causes	5	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	4	—	—	1	—	1
Natural Birth ...	32	—	5	—	2	—	2	12	—	21	3	6	—	2	11
Mal., Birth Injuries, Infant. Diseases ...	68	1	9	1	4	2	2	26	1	46	7	6	5	4	22
Side ...	29	—	6	—	1	2	2	9	1	21	1	5	2	—	8
Traffic Accidents	33	—	5	—	—	1	1	12	1	20	4	3	2	4	13
Violent Causes	63	—	9	2	5	1	2	20	—	39	6	11	3	4	24
Other Causes ...	344	2	60	19	23	9	12	107	3	235	24	40	23	22	109
TOTALS: ALL CAUSES	3,275	42	613	87	185	94	110	1,064	47	2,242	263	351	239	180	1,033

TABLE V—CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN THE COUNTY OF BEDFORD, 1949,  
SUBDIVIDED INTO URBAN AND RURAL AREAS

CAUSES OF DEATH	ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY						URBAN AREA						RURAL AREA					
	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	Total	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	Total				
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1				
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Tuberculosis of Resp. System	—	—	—	46	37	14	97	—	—	—	36	32	9	77				
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	8	1	5	2	2	19	1	7	—	4	2	1	15				
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	2	5	5	12	—	—	—	2	4	4	10				
Influenza	2	1	—	3	8	19	33	2	—	—	3	6	10	21				
Measles	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	2				
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	2	2	—	—	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	2				
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2				
Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Oesoph. (M)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Uterus (F)	—	—	—	—	19	33	52	—	—	—	—	15	18	33				
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	2	21	46	69	—	—	—	1	13	31	45				
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	4	25	29	58	—	—	—	2	15	23	40				
Cancer of all other Sites	—	2	2	25	124	175	328	—	1	2	20	89	112	224				
Diabetes	—	—	—	1	5	22	28	—	—	—	1	4	16	21				
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	—	—	—	4	60	300	364	—	—	—	4	39	194	237				
Heart Disease	—	—	—	25	171	768	964	—	—	—	20	140	493	653				
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	—	—	—	1	20	97	118	—	—	—	1	15	66	82				
Bronchitis	3	—	1	4	36	132	176	2	6	2	8	17	88	123				
Pneumonia	15	9	3	12	21	63	123	13	—	—	3	10	40	86				
Other Respiratory Diseases	2	—	—	4	15	23	44	2	—	—	5	13	28	32				
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	7	17	15	39	—	—	—	5	14	13	32				
Diarrhoea under 2 years	9	1	—	—	—	—	10	6	1	—	—	—	—	7				
Appendicitis	—	—	1	3	8	1	13	—	—	—	2	7	1	11				
Other Digestive Diseases	3	1	—	10	20	37	71	2	—	—	7	14	21	44				
Nephritis	—	—	—	11	22	37	70	—	—	—	7	20	32	59				
Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	4				
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	5	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	21				
Premature Birth	32	—	—	—	—	—	32	21	—	—	—	—	—	4				
Con. Mal., Birth Injuries, Infant. Diseases	53	5	3	3	2	2	68	38	2	1	2	1	2	46				
Suicide	—	—	—	11	15	3	29	—	—	—	7	11	3	21				
Road Traffic Accidents	—	2	3	15	2	11	33	—	2	2	9	—	7	20				
Other Violent Causes	9	1	3	11	6	33	63	5	1	1	6	4	22	39				
All Other Causes	3	5	3	28	64	241	344	1	4	3	20	47	160	235				
TOTALS: ALL CAUSES	134	39	23	245	726	2,108	3,275	94	27	14	177	551	1,379	2,242				
								40	12	9	68	175	729	1,033				



Table VI shows the age distribution of the deaths of Bedfordshire residents registered during the years 1945 to 1949 and Table VII shows the percentage of total deaths occurring at 65 years and over in the urban and rural areas during the past five years.

TABLE VI—DEATHS OF CIVILIANS AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY, 1945-49

Year	Deaths in age groups						Total
	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	
1945	175	39	39	263	693	1,852	3,061
1946	187	29	27	267	666	1,965	3,141
1947	184	37	39	269	618	2,061	3,208
1948	156	22	28	239	675	1,854	2,974
1949	134	39	23	245	726	2,108	3,275

TABLE VII—PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS OCCURRING AT AGE 65 AND OVER IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, 1945-49

Year	Urban Districts			Rural Districts		
	Deaths at		Percentage occurring at 65 +	Deaths at		Percentage occurring at 65 +
	All ages	65 +		All ages	65 +	
1945	2,095	1,220	58.2	966	632	65.4
1946	2,157	1,303	60.4	984	662	67.3
1947	2,178	1,362	62.5	1,030	699	67.9
1948	2,007	1,216	60.6	967	638	66.0
1949	2,242	1,379	61.5	1,033	729	70.6

### DEATH-RATES

In considering death-rates, it must be remembered that they may be affected considerably by the age and sex distribution of the populations concerned. For example, reference to the crude death-rates in Table IX shows that Ampthill Urban District had a death-rate of 15.1 per 1,000 in 1949, whilst that of Luton Borough was only 9.7. It would not be safe to assume from this that Luton is the more healthy locality. A substantial explanation of the figures is to be found in Table VIII which shows that at the 31st December, 1947, Ampthill had a greater proportion of its population in the higher age-groups. In fact, 25.6 per cent were aged 55 years or over; in Luton the percentage was 18.7 only. Consequently, comparison of the crude death-rates of different districts is not valid unless the population structure of each is exactly the same. However, provided that the structure of the population changes very slowly, the crude death-rates for the *same* district may be compared over a limited number of years.



TABLE VIII—AGE DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATIONS OF LUTON MUNICIPAL BOROUGH AND AMPHILL URBAN DISTRICT AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1947

Age Group	LUTON M.B.		AMPHILL U.D.	
	Persons	Percentage of total	Persons	Percentage of total
0-4	9,725	9.1	228	8.4
5-14	14,333	13.4	366	13.5
15-24	12,318	11.5	264	9.7
25-34	16,942	15.8	379	13.9
35-44	19,480	18.2	415	15.2
45-54	14,260	13.3	372	13.7
55-64	10,610	9.9	277	10.2
65-74	6,540	6.1	241	8.8
75-84	2,507	2.3	135	5.0
85+	385	0.4	43	1.6
All ages	107,100	100.0	2,720	100.0

To enable local death-rates to be compared, the Registrar General has calculated an Area Comparability Factor for each district. When the crude death-rate is multiplied by this factor, an *adjusted death-rate* is obtained which is comparable with the adjusted death-rate of any other area or with the crude death-rate of England and Wales *in the same year*. The crude death-rates, area comparability factors and adjusted death-rates of the sanitary districts and of England and Wales for 1949 are shown in Table IX.

TABLE IX—CRUDE DEATH-RATES, AREA COMPARABILITY FACTORS, AND ADJUSTED DEATH-RATES OF THE SANITARY DISTRICTS AND ENGLAND AND WALES, 1949

				Crude Death-rate per 1,000 Civilian Population	Area Comparability Factor	Adjusted Death-rate
<b>Urban Districts</b>				<b>10.6</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>11.0</b>
Ampthill	...	...	...	15.1	0.71	10.7
Bedford	...	...	...	11.6	0.95	11.0
Biggleswade	...	...	...	11.7	0.90	10.5
Dunstable	...	...	...	10.8	1.07	11.6
Kempston	...	...	...	10.7	1.02	10.9
Leighton Buzzard	...	...	...	12.6	0.90	11.3
Luton	...	...	...	9.7	1.13	11.0
Sandy	...	...	...	12.9	0.85	11.0
<b>Rural Districts</b>				<b>11.3</b>	<b>0.91</b>	<b>10.3</b>
Ampthill	...	...	...	11.8	0.91	10.7
Bedford	...	...	...	12.7	0.87	11.0
Biggleswade	...	...	...	10.7	0.91	9.7
Luton	...	...	...	9.5	0.99	9.4
<b>Admin. County</b>				<b>10.8</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>10.8</b>
<b>England and Wales</b>				<b>11.8</b>	<b>1.00</b>	<b>11.8</b>

## CAUSES OF DEATH

In order to bring out the relative importance of the principal diseases from a mortality point of view, Table X has been prepared, showing the actual numbers of deaths from these diseases in 1949, and the percentages of the total number of deaths attributable to them. The corresponding percentages for 1947 and 1948 are also shown.

TABLE X—NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM PRINCIPAL FATAL DISEASES IN 1949, TOGETHER WITH PERCENTAGES OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THOSE DISEASES IN 1947-49

	No. of deaths in 1949	Percentage of total deaths in 1949	Corresponding percentage in	
			1948	1947
Heart disease ... ..	964	29·4	28·0	27·3
Cancer ... ..	507	15·5	17·8	14·4
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc. ...	364	11·1	11·4	11·1
Bronchitis ... ..	176	5·4	4·1	5·6
Pneumonia ... ..	123	3·8	3·6	3·8
Other circulatory diseases ...	118	3·6	4·1	4·6
Prematurity, congenital malformations, birth injuries, etc. ...	100	3·1	3·5	3·6
Pulmonary tuberculosis ...	97	3·0	3·4	2·7

It will be seen that the order remains practically unchanged and that, on the whole, the percentages remain constant. Cancer accounted for a smaller percentage than in 1948 when the figure was a considerable increase on the previous year. Heart disease again heads the list and the percentage of deaths attributable to it shows a gradual increase.

## CANCER

Some mention was made of cancer in the last Report where it was pointed out that although research into the disease is being carried out on a considerable scale, the causes generally operating remained obscure. This, unfortunately, is still the case.

The information supplied by the Registrar General is insufficient for a detailed analysis to be made of the deaths of Bedfordshire residents from cancer. Certain observations may be made, however, based on the figures available for England and Wales for the past ten years. In about half the deaths, the digestive system is involved, rather more males than females being affected. Cancer of the respiratory system, nose, lips, throat, tongue, jaw, etc., is much more prevalent in men than in women. On the other hand, the breast and reproductive system are much more frequently affected in women.



At the present time, the number of deaths from all forms of cancer is evenly divided between the sexes. In past years the female deaths have exceeded the male deaths, but the mortality of males has been rising whilst that of females has been falling.

Reference to Table XI shows that the vast majority of cancer deaths occur in the second half of life. It may be anticipated, therefore, that as the life-expectancy and the mean age of the population rise, and in the absence of means of prevention, the total number of individuals falling victims to the disease will increase.

TABLE XI—AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS OF BEDFORDSHIRE RESIDENTS FROM ALL FORMS OF CANCER IN YEARS 1940 TO 1949, TOGETHER WITH PERCENTAGES OF DEATHS IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS.

	Deaths at Age						Total No. of Deaths	Percentage of deaths occurring at ages	
	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—		Under 45	65 and over
1940	—	2	2	29	153	229	415	8.0	55.2
1941	—	1	—	32	171	264	468	7.1	56.4
1942	—	1	3	28	178	250	460	7.0	54.3
1943	—	1	—	34	200	271	506	6.9	53.6
1944	—	1	3	35	208	283	530	7.4	53.4
1945	—	2	1	35	192	168	498	7.6	53.8
1946	—	—	1	35	152	285	473	7.6	60.2
1947	—	1	3	37	159	265	465	8.8	57.0
1948	—	—	—	41	188	300	529	7.8	56.7
1949	—	2	2	31	189	283	507	6.9	55.8

## HEART DISEASE

The number of deaths from heart disease has increased considerably during the past twenty years. Table XII shows the number of deaths attributable to Bedfordshire residents in each of the years 1940 to 1949, sub-divided according to age and sex. Figures for the years prior to 1940 are not given as changes in classification which took place in that year invalidate comparison. It will be seen that, as with cancer, the great majority of the deaths occur in persons aged 65 years and over. It is probable that most of the increase in the number of deaths is the direct result of the increase in life-expectancy and the age structure of the population.

In the 45–64 age-group, more males die than females. At 65 years and over, however, there is a greater proportion of female deaths, which is not surprising in view of the fact that there are about 40 per cent more females than males in that age-group.



TABLE XII—DEATHS OF BEDFORDSHIRE RESIDENTS FROM HEART DISEASE IN YEARS 1940-49  
SUB-DIVIDED ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX

	MALES						FEMALES						PERSONS					
	0—	5—	15—	45—	65—	Total	0—	5—	15—	45—	65—	Total	0—	5—	15—	45—	65—	Total
1940	—	1	22	97	230	350	—	1	7	79	318	405	—	2	29	176	548	755
1941	—	1	7	85	221	314	—	2	11	62	283	358	—	3	18	147	504	672
1942	—	2	11	92	225	330	—	1	19	76	258	354	—	3	30	168	483	684
1943	—	—	16	88	229	333	—	2	15	60	295	372	—	2	31	148	524	705
1944	1	1	15	85	242	344	—	—	15	70	279	364	1	1	30	155	521	708
1945	—	2	13	87	289	391	—	—	9	57	316	382	—	2	22	144	605	773
1946	—	—	10	92	306	408	—	—	14	51	336	401	—	—	24	143	642	809
1947	—	1	16	82	326	425	—	2	14	57	378	451	—	3	30	149	704	876
1948	—	1	11	91	274	377	—	2	12	55	386	455	—	3	23	146	660	832
1949	—	—	14	101	345	460	—	—	11	70	423	504	—	—	25	171	768	964

## TUBERCULOSIS

The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis per 100,000 civilian population has shown a downward trend in Bedfordshire during the past twenty years, although progress has not been continuous. The crude death-rate of 32 per 100,000 for 1949 was better than the rate of 34 in 1948 but higher than that of 30 for 1947 which is the lowest figure so far recorded. Table XIII shows that during the period 1931-49, the death-rate has invariably been lower for the rural than for the urban areas.

TABLE XIII—NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN URBAN, RURAL AND COUNTY AREAS FOR YEARS 1930-49, TOGETHER WITH CRUDE DEATH-RATES PER 100,000 CIVILIAN POPULATION

Year	URBAN DISTRICTS		RURAL DISTRICTS		COUNTY	
	No. of Deaths	Rate per 100,000 pop.	No. of Deaths	Rate per 100,000 pop.	No. of Deaths	Rate per 100,000 pop.
1930	99	69	57	75	156	72
1931	114	80	50	65	164	75
1932	99	69	37	46	136	61
1933	101	68	31	40	132	58
1934	88	57	31	41	119	52
1935	106	67	34	45	140	60
1936	112	67	33	41	145	59
1937	85	49	31	38	116	46
1938	88	50	26	30	114	44
1939	83	45	33	37	116	43
1940	102	52	24	27	126	44
1941	116	55	33	35	149	48
1942	94	46	21	23	115	39
1943	112	59	28	32	140	49
1944	92	46	33	39	125	44
1945	94	48	34	41	128	46
1946	100	50	26	31	126	44
1947	66	32	21	24	87	30
1948	74	35	28	31	102	34
1949	77	37	20	22	97	32

## INFANT MORTALITY

134 infants under one year of age died during 1949. The distribution of these deaths between the County Districts is shown in Table II on page 10. The number of such deaths per 1,000 live births registered during the year constitutes the Infant Mortality Rate. The rates for the individual districts are also shown in the Table. It should be borne in mind, however, that the figures are so small in some cases that the rate calculated may not be truly significant.

Table III on page 11 shows the Infant Mortality Rates for the Urban and Rural Areas, for the County as a whole, and for England and Wales for the past six years. The rate of 26·6 for the County in 1949 is the lowest ever recorded.

The causes and sex distribution of the infant deaths registered in 1949 are set out in Table XIV.

TABLE XIV—CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, 1949, SUBDIVIDED ACCORDING TO SEX

CAUSE	URBAN DISTRICTS		RURAL DISTRICTS		COUNTY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	—	1	1	1
Influenza ... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—
Bronchitis ...	—	2	—	1	—	3
Pneumonia ... ..	7	6	1	1	8	7
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—
Diarrhoea, etc. ...	4	2	2	1	6	3
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	1	1	1	—	2	1
Premature Birth ...	11	10	7	4	18	14
Congenital Malformations, etc. ...	25	13	5	10	30	23
Violence ... ..	5	—	3	1	8	1
Other Defined Causes	1	—	1	1	2	1
TOTALS ...	60	34	20	20	80	54

### MATERNAL MORTALITY

Six maternal deaths occurred during 1949, one being attributed to puerperal sepsis and five to other maternal causes. The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 1.16. This was somewhat higher than the rate of 0.75 for 1948 when there were only four deaths. The rate for England and Wales in 1949 was 0.98.



## **SOCIAL CONDITIONS**

Although most of the County is rural in character, farming and market gardening being extensively carried on, rather less than 10 per cent of the employed population appear to be engaged in agriculture and forestry. An allowance must be made, however, for the number of self-employed persons engaged in agriculture and concerning whom no information is available.

About half the population is concentrated in the towns of Bedford and Luton. The latter is the chief industrial centre but an appreciable amount of engineering is carried out in Bedford. There is no doubt that many of the people in the surrounding areas find employment in these towns.

Registered unemployment remained very small during 1949 and appears to have been seasonal to some extent.

## **SECTION II**

---

# **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

## **THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946**

The administrative arrangements adopted in Bedfordshire for carrying out the duties imposed by the 1946 Act were set out in the report for 1948. No change was made in these arrangements during 1949 and they functioned smoothly.

An account of the services provided by the County Council as local health authority is given in the succeeding paragraphs.

### **SECTION 21—HEALTH CENTRE**

It was not found possible during the year to proceed further with the scheme for the development of the Medical Institute, Waller Street, Luton, as a Health Centre. This scheme envisaged the provision of accommodation for four general practitioners and of facilities for mothers and young children, and schoolchildren.

### **SECTION 22—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN**

Particulars of the services provided by the County Council for mothers and young children are given in the ensuing paragraphs.

#### **Ante-Natal Work**

Thirteen ante-natal clinics were provided by the County Council. Six of these clinics were held in premises rented for the purpose. Table XV shows details of the work done during 1949.

Under the County Council scheme whereby general practitioners carry out ante-natal and post-natal examinations in domiciliary cases attended by midwives, 18 expectant mothers were seen and 57 ante-natal examinations were carried out during the year.

#### **Post-Natal Clinics**

Separate Post-Natal Clinics are not held but mothers are encouraged to attend at the Ante-Natal Clinics after their confinements in order that a post-natal examination may be made. 314 women attended during the year. In addition, general practitioners examined 22 mothers.



TABLE XV—DETAILS OF ANTE-NATAL CLINICS IN THE COUNTY AND WORK DONE DURING 1949

Clinic	Day and Time	Number of Women who attended during the year	Total number of attendances	Number of sessions held
BEDFORD— 29, Barford Avenue	Wednesday 9.30 (Weekly)	112	315	49
3 Brereton Road†	Thursday 9.30 (Weekly)	109	276	47
BIGGLESWADE— The Masonic Rooms, St. Andrew's Street (Now at The Lawns)	Tuesday 10.0 (Fortnightly)	105	264	25
DUNSTABLE— Health Centre, Kingsway	Thursday 10.0 (Weekly) Thursday 2.0 (Fortnightly)	423	1,881	77
HOUGHTON REGIS— Baptist Schoolroom	Wednesday 10.0 (Fortnightly)	52	190	26
KEMPSTON— Methodist Schoolroom Foster Road	Wednesday 10.0 (Fortnightly)	56	235	26
LEIGHTON BUZZARD— 1 Grovebury Road	Friday 10.0 (Fortnightly)	120	511	26
LUTON— Dallow Road ...	Tuesday 2.0 Wednesday 2.0 Friday 2.0 (Fortnightly)	522	1,678	} 84*
Stopsley ...	Thursday 2.0 (Fortnightly)	209	671	
SHEFFORD— Methodist Schoolroom Ampthill Road Removed to Digswell House on 11.5.49	Wednesday 10.0 (Fortnightly)	69	191	26
SHILLINGTON— Congregational Schoolroom	Thursday 10.0 (Fortnightly)	23	72	26
STOTFOLD— Unionist Club ...	Monday 10.0 (Fortnightly)	59	251	24
SUNDON— Skefko Sports Pavilion	Wednesday 10.0 (Fortnightly)	104	294	26
TOTALS ...	... ..	1,963	6,829	462

† Now closed.

\* Half-day sessions. The Luton clinics are Midwives' Clinics, the midwives seeing their own patients.

TABLE XVI—DETAILS OF WORK DONE AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES DURING 1949

Centre	No. of Infants who attended the Centre for the first time during the year		No. of Children in attendance at end of year who were then		Total attendances during the year	No. of Consultations with Council's Medical Officer	No. of Sessions held during year
	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years	Under 1 year	Between 1-5 years			
Ampthill ... ..	24	1	23	57	2,586	454	51
Arlesey ... ..	64	1	62	64	1,408	280	24
Aspley Guise (Opened 3.5.49)	32	24	18	38	408	135	17
Barton ... ..	23	7	29	129	758	149	26
Bedford—							
Barford Avenue ... ..	207	46	114	93	4,304	1,059	99
Brereton Road ... ..	224	25	147	116	5,490	578	102
Goldington ... ..	71	19	48	50	1,849	277	51
Queen's Park ... ..	56	9	39	40	1,825	241	51
Biggleswade ... ..	90	18	102	32	2,447	477	51
Blunham (Opened 17.11.49)	1	2	7	11	26	6	2
Bromham ... ..	16	2	11	39	459	123	23
Caddington ... ..	25	—	25	73	738	205	24
Clapham ... ..	66	3	27	81	1,312	324	47
Cranfield ... ..	34	4	38	75	935	331	25
Dunstable ... ..	293	28	256	729	9,759	1,462	139
Eaton Bray ... ..	35	5	32	102	762	202	24
Eaton Socon ... ..	29	1	23	51	718	113	26
Elstow (Opened 20.4.49) ...	118	86	58	37	1,413	229	37
Flitwick (Opened 30.9.49)	47	49	43	53	403	87	14
Great Barford (Opened 26.4.49) ... ..	20	15	16	19	179	30	17
Harrold ... ..	50	20	50	111	1,101	356	26
Haynes ... ..	18	6	15	33	603	107	26
Heath and Reach ... ..	12	5	11	78	501	58	27
Henlow (Opened 7.7.49) ...	61	46	58	44	753	*	26
Houghton Regis ... ..	53	8	43	344	1,957	207	48
Kempston ... ..	116	50	109	270	4,170	828	102
Leighton Buzzard ... ..	148	13	136	227	3,257	478	59
Luton—							
Beechwood ... ..	266	33	204	341	5,622	680	102
Castle Street ... ..	336	30	282	234	6,435	645	104
Dallow Road ... ..	227	15	209	269	3,808	907	48
Leagrave, High Street ...	85	19	86	190	1,607	274	48
Leagrave, Marsh Road ...	119	8	106	197	2,867	696	51
Limbury ... ..	185	11	239	241	4,769	792	102
Round Green ... ..	320	18	201	570	6,831	912	103
Stopsley ... ..	99	11	90	159	1,983	285	48
Marston Moretaine ... ..	33	7	34	62	834	221	26
Potton ... ..	32	11	32	56	728	138	26
Ridgmont ... ..	25	2	19	59	789	171	24
Riseley ... ..	28	4	28	63	458	190	13
Sandy ... ..	31	21	33	84	948	258	26
Sharnbrook ... ..	33	1	33	54	636	214	25
Shefford ... ..	74	11	63	139	2,287	342	52
Shillington ... ..	36	7	30	55	717	216	26
Slip End ... ..	18	1	18	88	638	224	24
Stewartby ... ..	24	1	23	57	698	204	24
Stotfold ... ..	53	1	53	139	1,360	284	24
Streatley ... ..	23	7	22	125	721	100	26
Studham ... ..	28	7	27	112	871	234	26
Sundon ... ..	62	3	53	153	1,879	224	52
Tempsford ... ..	8	1	8	18	147	48	13
Toddington ... ..	62	3	55	122	1,400	228	50
Turvey ... ..	13	3	13	44	335	160	12
Woburn ... ..	24	1	18	52	781	161	26
Wootton ... ..	24	6	17	54	690	159	26
Wyboston (Opened 5.1.49)	24	28	10	42	511	126	26
TOTALS ... ..	4,225	764	3,546	6,775	101,471	17,989	2,317

\*The Council's Medical Officer did not attend this Clinic during 1949.



### **Gynaecological Clinics**

A Clinic at the Dunstable Health Centre is held once a fortnight. Advice on birth control is given to women in whose case pregnancy or further pregnancy would be detrimental to health. 113 women attended and were advised during 1949.

A Birth Control Clinic is also held once a fortnight at the Beechwood Health Centre, Luton, with additional sessions when required. During 1949, advice was given to 121 women.

### **Infant Welfare Centres**

Table XVI shows the work done at the Infant Welfare Centres provided by the County Council. Seven were opened during the year, making a total of 55 in operation at the 31st December, 1949. Most of the clinics are held in premises rented for the purpose.

### **The Bedford and County Girls' Home**

This Home provides accommodation for sixteen unmarried mothers and their infants. During the year 1949, ten Bedfordshire girls were admitted.

The Local Health Authority have made financial arrangements which, subject to certain safeguards, have the effect of guaranteeing any deficit incurred by the Voluntary Committee of Management in connection with Bedfordshire cases.

### **Illegitimate Infants**

There were, in the whole of the Administrative County, 244 illegitimate births. The arrangements whereby voluntary association workers co-operate with the Health Visitors in the care of illegitimate children were continued.

### **Premature Infants**

All infants weighing  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. or less at birth are regarded as being premature, irrespective of the period of gestation. Table XVII shows the number of premature babies born in the County during the year and the number that died within 28 days of birth.

The success which has been achieved is doubtless due in large measure to the facilities provided by the Health Committee for the nursing of these tiny infants.



TABLE XVII—NUMBER OF PREMATURE BABIES BORN IN THE COUNTY DURING 1949, SHOWING WHERE BORN AND NURSED,  
AND SUBDIVIDED ACCORDING TO WEIGHT AND PERIOD OF SURVIVAL

28

		BORN AT HOME OR IN PRIVATE NURSING HOME										BORN IN HOSPITAL				Grand Total
		Nursed entirely at Home or in Nursing Home					Transferred to Hospital									
		Total														
		Under 3lbs.	3-4lbs.	4-5½lbs.	Total		Under 3lbs.	3-4lbs.	4-5½lbs.	Total		Under 3lbs.	3-4lbs.	4-5½lbs.	Total	
		8	2	3	—	5	2	1	—	3		5	3	6	14	22
Died in first 24 hours	...	3	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	2		1	1	1	3	6
Died on 2nd to 7th day	...	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3		1	—	1	2	5
Died on 8th to 28th day	...	97	2	4	82	88	—	3	6	9		—	12	107	119	216
Survived 28 days	...															
TOTAL	...	111	4	8	82	94	4	6	7	17		7	16	115	138	249

### Child Life Protection

The administration of the Children Act, 1948, is the responsibility of the Care of Children Committee. The arrangement has continued, however, whereby the health visitors pay visits to foster-children and children placed for adoption.

### Day Nurseries

Day Nurseries are provided by the County Council in Bedford, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and Luton. Details are given in Table XVIII.

TABLE XVIII—ACCOMMODATION AND AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE AT THE DAY NURSERIES IN 1949

Address of Nursery	No. of approved places		No. of Children on the register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance during the year	
	Years 0-2	Years 2-5	Years 0-2	Years 2-5	Years 0-2	Years 2-5
Bedford— 34 St. John's Street,	42	26	18	62	19	44
Dunstable— Douglas Crescent	40	—	23	*12	20	*10
Leighton Buzzard— Bassett Road ...	13	47	13	35	10	31
Luton— Alder Crescent	30	45	9	58	9	42
Manor Road ...	25	40	9	46	14	26
Stopsley ...	17	18	12	29	9	22

\* Owing to the acute shortage of places at the Luton Road Nursery School, children from 2-2½ years were allowed to remain at the Douglas Crescent Day Nursery although there were no approved vacancies.

### Dental Treatment

(Note by Senior Dental Officer)

During 1949 dental clinics were held at Bedford, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard. At the Dunstable Clinic facilities for X-ray examination were provided. No dental work was undertaken in Luton as it was not possible to obtain staff.

The clinic at Leighton Buzzard, which opened in the month of August, proved popular and the demand for treatment was steady, especially in respect of pre-school children.

Table XIX gives details of the work done at the various clinics. The recent increase in the staff of the School Dental Service will allow more time to be given to this work.

TABLE XIX—DETAILS OF WORK DONE AT DENTAL CLINICS  
DURING 1949

Clinic	Extractions			Fill-ings	Other Operations			No. of Cases Treated
	Anaesthetic				Dress-ings	Scal-ings	Miscel-laneous	
	Local	Gas	Total					
BEDFORD—								
Mothers ...	—	74	74	21	—	5	51	85
Infants ...	—	104	104	—	—	2	—	66
DUNSTABLE—								
Mothers ...	13	123	136	67	27	15	80	191
Infants ...	2	71	73	58	24	2	—	116
LEIGHTON								
BUZZARD*—								
Mothers ...	—	32	32	28	8	5	11	57
Infants ...	—	11	11	8	5	—	—	20

\* Opened in August, 1949.

## SECTION 23—MIDWIVES SERVICE

At the 31st December, 1949, sixteen midwives and thirty-nine nurse-midwives were employed by the County Council. During the year, they attended 829 cases as midwives and 930 cases as maternity nurses.

At the end of the year, fifty-two of the midwives were qualified to administer gas and air analgesia and fifty sets of apparatus were in use.

Table XX gives details of the maternity work carried out in the County during 1949.





FIG. 1. WOODLANDS AVENUE, HOUGHTON REGIS

View along cul-de-sac, showing old walnut tree. The houses are three-bedroomed types



FIG. 2. WOODLANDS AVENUE, HOUGHTON REGIS





FIG. 3. BRADFORD ROAD ESTATE, TODDINGTON



FIG. 4. FLITWICK HOUSING ESTATE  
A typical terrace of three-bedroomed houses





FIG. 5. FLITWICK HOUSING ESTATE  
Cottages designed by Prof. A. E. Richardson



FIG. 6. OLD PEOPLE'S BUNGALOWS, STOTFOLD





FIG. 7. SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES ERECTED BY BEDFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



FIG. 8. BLOCK OF SEMI-BUNGALOWS, CARDINGTON



TABLE XX—NUMBER OF MATERNITY CASES IN THE COUNTY ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES AS MIDWIVES OR MATERNITY NURSES DURING 1949, SUB-DIVIDED INTO DOMICILIARY AND INSTITUTIONAL CASES

	Domiciliary Cases		Cases in Institutions		Total	
	As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses	As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses	As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses
Midwives employed by County Council ... ..	829	930	—	—	829	930
Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations ... ..	—	—	21	—	21	—
Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees ...	—	—	895	1,659	895	1,659
Midwives in Private Practice ...	1	56	59	634	60	690
TOTALS ...	830	986	975	2,293	1,805	3,279

During the year, notification of intention to practise was received from 134 midwives. In addition, notifications were received from midwives in respect of the following:—

Medical aid summoned	...	...	249
Death of mother	...	...	1
Death of infant	...	...	14
Still births	...	...	35
Laying-out the dead	...	...	15
Liability to be source of infection	...	...	18
Artificial feeding	...	...	237

## SECTION 24—HEALTH VISITING

25 Health Visitors were employed by the County Council at the 31st December, 1949. The National Health Service Act widened the scope of their work so that, in addition to attendance at clinics, it now covers the visiting of persons in their own homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection. The combined Health Visitor/School Nurse system is in operation in most of the County.

Particulars of the visits paid by the Council's Health Visitors during the year are given below:—

			<i>First visits*</i>	<i>Total visits</i>
Expectant mothers	...	...	455	1,116
Children under 1 year	...	...	5,390	27,141
Children between 1 and 5	...	...	460	34,317
Other cases	...	...	...	4,885

\* These figures relate to expectant mothers and children who have *never* previously been visited by a health visitor.

## SECTION 25—HOME NURSING

The County Council make direct provision of a Home Nursing service. In addition to the 39 nurse-midwives already mentioned, 22 full-time home nurses were employed at the 31st December, 1949.

The number of patients attended by the Nurses during the year is shown below, together with the number of visits paid:—

<i>Type of Case</i>		<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>No. of Visits</i>
Abortion	... ..	69	678
Medical	... ..	3,746	75,655
Surgical	... ..	1,517	24,821
Infectious Disease	...	31	1,149
Miscellaneous	... ..	1,160	6,777
TOTALS	...	6,523	109,080



## SECTION 26—VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

### (a) Vaccination

Parents are encouraged to have their children vaccinated, either by the family doctor or, if more convenient, at the Child Welfare Centre. Supplies of lymph are available on application to the Public Health Laboratory, Department of Pathology, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Table XXI shows the number of persons vaccinated for the first time during 1949 in each of the Divisions. These figures include those cases vaccinated by general practitioners and concerning whom records were not received until after the question of fees had been settled.

TABLE XXI—NUMBER OF PERSONS VACCINATED IN EACH DIVISION FOR THE FIRST TIME DURING 1949, SUB-DIVIDED ACCORDING TO AGE AT 31.12.49

Age at 31.12.49	DIVISION				Totals
	Northern	Southern	Eastern	Luton	
Under 1 year ...	173	54	48	305	580
1-4 years ...	97	61	23	20	201
5-14 years ...	35	14	1	13	63
Over 14 years ...	49	22	5	41	117
TOTALS ...	354	151	77	379	961

### (b) Immunisation

The arrangements for immunisation against diphtheria, which have proved so successful in the past, were continued. As in the case of vaccination, all medical practitioners have been given an opportunity of taking part in this service. Parents wishing to have children under school age immunised may also make application to one of the County's Infant Welfare Clinics. Immunisation of schoolchildren is arranged through the schools.

Table XXII shows the number of children in the County who are known to have been immunised at any time before the 31st December, 1949. The figures are an understatement of the true position as the table takes no account of children who may have been immunised by family doctors before the 5th July, 1948, and concerning whom no statistics are available.

It will be seen from Table XXIII that 67·7 cent of all children under 15 years of age in the County are known to have been immunised. The corresponding figure at the end of 1948 was 64·7 per cent.

TABLE XXII—NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN THE FOUR DIVISIONS KNOWN TO HAVE COMPLETED A FULL COURSE OF IMMUNISATION BY 31ST DECEMBER, 1949, SUB-DIVIDED ACCORDING TO THE AGE AT THAT DATE.

Age at 31.12.49	DIVISION				Totals
	Northern	Southern	Eastern	Luton	
Under 1 year ...	71	83	27	1,009	1,190
1 year ... ..	1,031	476	310	699	2,516
2 years ... ..	1,226	421	523	1,643	3,813
3 years ... ..	982	502	559	1,212	3,255
4 years ... ..	949	492	460	1,160	3,061
Total under 5 years	4,259	1,974	1,879	5,723	13,835
5-9 years ... ..	6,378	2,098	2,302	5,243	16,021
10-14 years ... ..	6,083	2,414	1,581	5,257	15,335
Total under 15 years	16,720	6,486	5,762	16,223	45,191

TABLE XXIII—ESTIMATED CHILD POPULATIONS OF THE DIVISIONS MID-1949, AND PERCENTAGES OF THOSE POPULATIONS IMMUNISED AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1949

	DIVISION				Whole County
	Northern	Southern	Eastern	Luton	
No. of children under 5 years ... ..	9,312	3,874	2,810	9,874	25,870
Percentage immunised	45·7	51·0	66·9	58·0	53·5
No. of children 5-14 years ... ..	15,358	6,125	4,607	14,840	40,930
Percentage immunised	81·1	73·7	84·3	70·8	76·6
Total No. of children under 15 years ...	24,670	9,999	7,417	24,714	66,800
Percentage immunised	67·8	64·9	77·7	65·6	67·7



## SECTION 27—AMBULANCE SERVICE

The County Ambulance Service covers the whole of the Administrative County with the exception of a small area on the Buckinghamshire border and one on the Northamptonshire border. In these areas, agency agreements are in existence with the Buckinghamshire County Council and the Rushden and District Motor Ambulance Association respectively. During the early part of 1949, there was also an arrangement with the Buckinghamshire County Council in respect of a small area near Woburn Sands. This is now covered by the Ampthill Depot.

The Authority's Service receives a considerable reinforcement from the Hospital Car Service and from the attendance of voluntary personnel of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society at the Depots. During the year the Hospital Car Service travelled 147,555 miles in doing 2,411 journeys for the Authority. Car Hire Services were employed to convey patients to and from the Chest Clinic in Bedford and 36,246 miles were travelled on 1,042 journeys.

At the 31st December, 1949, the ambulance personnel directly employed—Superintendent, Station Officers and Driver Attendants—numbered 65. The fleet comprised 26 ambulances and 10 sitting-case cars.

Table XXIV sets out the work done by the 5 Ambulance Depots during 1949. The total mileage shown includes 2,208 miles travelled on behalf of other authorities. In addition to the mileage covered by the Council's vehicles, the following mileages were recorded by other Ambulance Services acting on the Council's behalf:—

Buckinghamshire County Council	...	...	45,020 miles
Rushden & District Motor Ambulance Association			5,837 „
Other Authorities	...	...	5,375 „

TABLE XXIV—DETAILS OF WORK DONE BY THE COUNTY  
AMBULANCE DEPOTS, 1949

Depot	Class of Vehicle	County Journeys	Out of County Journeys	Total No. of Journeys	Total Number of Miles Travelled
Bedford ...	Ambulances ...	3,503	507	4,010	110,770
	Sitting-case Cars	1,232	318	1,550	69,095
					179,865
Biggleswade	Ambulances ...	850	444	1,294	54,817
	Sitting-case Cars	743	388	1,131	49,874
					104,691
Ampthill ...	Ambulances ...	1,719	129	1,848	66,399
	Sitting-case Cars	850	226	1,076	51,136
					117,535
Dunstable ...	Ambulances ...	2,864	426	3,290	69,950
	Sitting-case Cars	964	175	1,139	32,430
					102,380
Luton ...	Ambulances ...	12,005	273	12,278	80,483
	Sitting-case Cars	3,177	211	3,388	34,873
					115,356
	Totals ...	27,907	3,097	31,004	619,827



## SECTION 28—PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER-CARE

### (a) Tuberculosis

The establishment provides for six Tuberculosis Visitors, two Welfare Officers and an Occupational Therapist. Beds, bedding, shelters and nursing requisites are available for patients being nursed at home. These patients can also receive domestic help and extra nourishment. Arrangements are made, where necessary, to provide boarding-out accommodation for the children of infected persons. In addition, arrangements exist with settlements for the reception of suitable tuberculous patients.

### (b) Other Types of Illness.

For the care and after-care of the non-tuberculous sick, the County Council provide nursing equipment and apparatus required by patients being confined or nursed at home. This is done indirectly through the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade who, between them, operate 19 Comforts Depots in the County. As with the tuberculous, occupational therapy and domestic help are available. Convalescent facilities for mothers and young children are also provided in suitable cases.

### (c) Health Education.

In December, 1948, a Health Education Officer was appointed to deal with health education in the County, excluding Luton. A 16mm. sound film projector was purchased and all women's organisations and youth clubs in the area were informed that films on various aspects of health and hygiene could be shown free of charge. The films are obtained from the Central Office of Information. From September to December, 1949, fifteen shows were given. Three talks were given by the Health Education Officer.

In April, 1949, a display stand was received on loan from the Central Council for Health Education. Material for display is supplied free every two months. The topics dealt with during the year were Diphtheria Immunisation, Health Services provided by the Council, Food and Drink Infections, and Sleep. Arrangements were made for the stand to be displayed in various centres of population in the County.

With regard to Diphtheria Immunisation, special attention was given to those families in which the children had not been immunised. Posters were displayed in shops and clinics, leaflets were distributed, an article was written for the local papers and most of the cinemas showed a trailer film.

Moreover, a series of eleven articles on the County Health Services was written for the *Biggleswade Chronicle*.

## **SECTION 29—DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE**

During 1949, the Home Help Service continued to be operated by the Women's Voluntary Services on behalf of the County Council. A Home Help Organiser, two assistant organisers and the necessary clerical staff were seconded to the W.V.S. Under the Scheme, a Home Help is provided for households where assistance is needed because of illness, confinement, old age, etc. The amount of help given varies according to the needs of the individual assisted. Thus, in some cases whole-time assistance is given, while in others, one or two hours a day are all that is necessary. At the end of the year, 46 full-time and 167 part-time Home Helps were employed.

## **SECTION 51—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE**

The supervision of mental defectives living in the community is carried out by the Mental Health Workers. By far the greatest number of defectives live with their parents in their own homes, but some are in resident situations, or boarded-out with suitable Guardians. Patients on licence from institutions are supervised on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board.

Community care of persons suffering from mental ill health is also undertaken by these officers, one of whom is a trained psychiatric social worker. The scope of this work is wide, covering persons for whom hospitalisation is not required as well as patients discharged from mental hospitals. After-care work is also carried out by psychiatric social workers from the Three Counties Hospital. In some cases the Mental Health workers are called upon by general practitioners to arrange for certification in their capacity of Duly Authorised Officers. Frequently, however, the problem presents itself as a social one, whether the presenting symptoms be inadequacy, attempted suicide, depression, marital disharmony, after-effects of war experiences, inability to remain in steady employment or that of senile dementia where there are no relatives able and willing to give the necessary care.

The Authority have established two Occupation Centres—one at Dunstable and one at Turvey.

## **Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930**

Details are given overleaf of the cases dealt with under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts by the Duly Authorised Officers during 1949. Under "Other Action" are included cases of senile dementia which it was possible to refer to the Welfare Department to be dealt with by sending to Part III accommodation under the National Assistance Act, 1948, rather than by certification and admission to a Mental Hospital.



<i>Category</i>						<i>No. of Cases</i>
Voluntary	...	...	...	...	...	144
Temporary	...	...	...	...	...	2
Certification upon Petition	...	...	...	...	...	10
Certification (Summary Reception Orders)	...	...	...	...	...	77
Urgency Orders	...	...	...	...	...	11
Section 20	...	...	...	...	...	29
Other Action	...	...	...	...	...	181
TOTAL						454

### Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938

During the year 28 males and 24 females were ascertained to be mental defectives. Particulars are given below with regard to defectives under care in the community at 31st December, 1949:—

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Under Guardianship	...	...	...	21	15
Under Supervision—					
Statutory	...	...	...	131	74
Voluntary	...	...	...	18	33
Awaiting vacancies in Institutions				43	29
Supervised on Licence	...	...	...	12	12
Receiving training—					
N. Beds. Occupation Centre	...	...	...	13	5
S. Beds. Occupation Centre	...	...	...	11	9
Home Teaching	...	...	...	—	1
TOTALS				249	178

The number in institutions at the 31st December, 1949, was 238 (127 males and 111 females).

### NURSING HOMES

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, the County Council are the responsible authority for the registration and supervision of Nursing Homes. Their powers and duties were, however, delegated to the Luton Borough Council in respect of premises in that Borough. In the remainder of the County there were, at the 31st December, 1949, twelve Nursing Homes registered. These provided accommodation for 49 maternity and 116 other cases. One new registration was made during the year. 28 inspections were carried out and the Homes were found to be satisfactory.



### **SECTION III**

---

## **PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

4,106 confirmed cases of infectious and other notifiable diseases amongst the civilian population were notified to the District Medical Officers of Health during 1949. Details are set out in Table XXV. The information has been extracted from the Quarterly Returns submitted by the District Medical Officers, but adjustments have been made in the case of poliomyelitis.

TABLE XXV—NUMBER OF CIVILIAN CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED AND CONFIRMED DURING 1949 IN THE SANITARY DISTRICTS OF BEDFORDSHIRE

	Ampt Hill		Bedford		Biggleswade		Dunstable Borough	Kempston Urban	Leighton Buzzard Urban	Luton		Sandy Urban	TOTALS
	Urban	Rural	Borough	Rural	Urban	Rural				Borough	Rural		
Undulant Fever ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	13	293	41	17	10	19	42	5	87	17	1	54
Diphtheria including Mem- branous Croup ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute) ... ..	—	6	59	34	—	8	5	5	23	62	13	—	21
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	2	7	4	9	—	2	4	—	—	3	4	1	—
Acute Polioencephalitis ... ..	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	32	—	—	—	13	3	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	2	9	8	—	3	1	2	1	12	3	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	31	169	35	61	42	9	9	41	141	52	20	61
Measles ... ..	7	155	437	176	2	57	170	79	29	1,047	194	91	2,44
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	2	3	1	—	2	—	—	—	16	—	—	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	1	9	2	2	—	—	—	—	7	11	2	1	—
Infective Hepatitis (including Jaundice) ... ..	—	3	29	11	4	3	1	4	—	12	—	2	—
TOTALS ... ..	13	230	1,010	322	84	174	211	141	107	1,409	289	116	4,106

In addition to the civilian cases, 44 cases amongst non-civilians were notified in Bedford Rural District as follows:—

Scarlet Fever ... ..	33
Pneumonia (Acute) ... ..	3
Measles ... ..	3
Infective Hepatitis (including Jaundice) ... ..	5

## Scarlet Fever

A total of 579 cases of scarlet fever occurred, compared with 335 in 1948, and it is of interest to compare the course of the disease in the two years. In 1948, the incidence was greatest in the first quarter of the year when there were 133 cases. It then steadily declined and only 45 cases occurred in the last quarter. 185 cases, or 55 per cent of the total, were in Luton Borough. The incidence remained low at the beginning of 1949, only 47 cases being notified in the first quarter. Then in the last quarter, 401 cases were notified. The Bedford area was chiefly affected in 1949, 293 cases, or 51 per cent of the total, being in the town alone.

## Diphtheria

It is pleasing to be able to report that, for the third year in succession, there were no deaths from diphtheria in this County. Moreover, only one actual case occurred in 1949, compared with 9 in 1948 and 14 in 1947. This greatly improved state of affairs is undoubtedly due in large measure to the comprehensive facilities for diphtheria immunisation provided by the Authority and the readiness of the public to use them. Figures relating to immunisation are given in Section II.

## Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis

Poliomyelitis is a virus infection of the grey matter of the spinal cord. Polioencephalitis, which occurs less frequently, is the name given to the disease when the infection attacks the grey matter of the brain.

The method of spread of the infection is not precisely known. The virus is found in the pharynx and in the faeces of patients. It may be, therefore, that the disease is spread by droplet infection or by contaminated food. It is probable that there are a great many persons who carry the virus for a time without having any recognisable illness. Careful attention to personal cleanliness and the maintenance of a high standard of hygiene in the handling of food are, therefore, particularly important. Flies also are suspect, and during an epidemic, as indeed at all times, food should be protected from them.

An outbreak of poliomyelitis commenced in the County in July, 1949, when seven confirmed cases occurred, followed by a further case early in August. After an interval of about four weeks, cases began to occur in fairly rapid succession until the beginning of November when the epidemic began to wane. From the 1st July to the 31st December there were forty-one cases, thirty-six of poliomyelitis and five of polioencephalitis. The distribution of these cases according to district and month of occurrence is shown in Table XXVI. For the purpose of this Table the month of occurrence is fixed by the date of onset, not the date of notification. The sex-age distribution of the cases is shown in Table XXVII.



TABLE XXVI—MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF POLIOMYELITIS AND  
POLIOENCEPHALITIS IN SANITARY DISTRICTS OF BEDFORDSHIRE, 1949

District			July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Ampthill Urban	...		—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Ampthill Rural	...	...	1	—	5	2	—	—	8
Bedford Borough	...		—	—	—	3	—	1	4
Bedford Rural	...	...	—	—	3	5	1	1	10
Biggleswade Rural	...		—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Dunstable Borough	...		1	—	—	3	1	—	5
Luton Borough	...		2	—	2	—	—	—	4
Luton Rural	...	...	3	1	1	—	—	—	5
Sandy Urban	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
TOTALS			7	1	13	14	3	3	41

TABLE XXVII—SEX-AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOENCEPHALITIS IN  
SANITARY DISTRICTS OF BEDFORDSHIRE, 1949

District	0—		1—4		5—9		10—14		15—19		20—24		25—34		35—44		TOTAL
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M. & F.
Ampthill Urban	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Ampthill Rural	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Bedford Borough	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
Bedford Rural	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	2
Biggleswade Rural	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dunstable ...	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Luton Borough	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Luton Rural ...	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Sandy Urban ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	—	1	5	4	5	6	3	2	4	2	2	—	—	6	—	1	19

All but two of the cases were treated in hospital, thirty-three patients being admitted to Spittlesea Isolation Hospital. There were four deaths giving a Fatality Rate of 9·8 per 100 cases as compared with the corresponding rate of 19·1 in the 1947 outbreak. Three of the deaths occurred in 1949 and one in January, 1950. Tables IV and V show four deaths from poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis in 1949. The additional death was a Bedford person residing temporarily in London and the case has not been included in the figures given in this section.

Table XXVIII shows the incidence of the disease in the Sanitary Districts in 1947 and 1949. It will be observed that whilst the number of cases in the urban districts was very much smaller, being sixteen as compared with seventy-four in 1947, there was an increase in the number of cases in the rural districts from twenty to twenty-five.

TABLE XXVIII—NO. OF CASES OF POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOENCEPHALITIS THAT OCCURRED IN SANITARY DISTRICTS, 1947 AND 1949

					1947	1949
URBAN DISTRICTS—						
Ampthill	...	...	...		2	2
Bedford	...	...	...		16	4
Biggleswade	...	...	...		1	—
Dunstable	...	...	...		1	5
Kempston	...	...	...		1	—
Leighton Buzzard	...	...	...		5	—
Luton	...	...	...	...	47	4
Sandy	...	...	...	...	1	1
TOTALS					74	16
RURAL DISTRICTS—						
Ampthill	...	...	...		3	8
Bedford	...	...	...		10	10
Biggleswade	...	...	...		2	2
Luton	...	...	...	...	5	5
TOTALS					20	25
GRAND TOTALS					94	41



The thirty-seven cases that survived were followed up to determine the amount of residual paralysis, if any. The results of these investigations were as follows:—

No paralysis	...	...	...	...	...	9
Slight paralysis (not sufficient to be a handicap)						7
Moderate paralysis (some degree of impairment of function)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Severe paralysis (considerable impairment of function)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Lost sight of	...	...	...	...	...	1
						<hr/> 37 <hr/>

It is unusual for more than one case to occur in the same family but in this outbreak it happened on four occasions. Two of the families live in Houghton Regis (Luton Rural District), one in the Borough of Bedford, and one in Wymington (Bedford Rural District).

Enquiries, especially in regard to the two Houghton Regis families, failed to give any indication of a possible source of infection.

The outbreak was not so serious as that of 1947 either in incidence or in case mortality, but the amount of residual paralysis is disturbing, no less than twenty-seven of the patients being affected.

### Whooping Cough

This disease was less prevalent in 1949 than in the previous year, 611 cases being notified as against 1,062. There were 2 deaths. The figures give no reliable indication of the actual number of cases that occurred. There are, undoubtedly, very many cases to which a doctor is not called and which, therefore, are not notified. It should be pointed out that the disease is by no means trivial and that it is not unusual for it to be followed by disabling after-effects.

### Measles

In the past, it was usual to encounter an epidemic of measles every other year, but there is evidence which suggests that the periodicity is changing. Experience during the years 1947, 1948 and 1949 suggests that a cycle of one year is being established. The figures set out below are relevant:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases Notified</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1944	242	1
1945	3,063	2
1946	879	1
1947	2,291	2
1948	2,367	—
1949	2,447	3

Like whooping cough, this disease is by no means trivial. It may, in fact, be followed by serious after-effects.

## TUBERCULOSIS

The County Council's responsibility is in relation to prevention, care and after-care, treatment being provided by the Regional Hospital Board. The Senior Chest Physicians who work at and from the Chest Clinics are jointly employed by the Regional Hospital Board and the Local Health Authority. This represents an attempt to maintain an integrated tuberculosis service. There is an establishment of six Tuberculosis Visitors who are employed full-time on prevention, care and after-care. Further details are given in Section II.

During 1949, there were 350 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 49 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified. In addition, 46 pulmonary and 14 non-pulmonary cases came to notice otherwise than by notification, e.g., by Death Returns and Inward Transfers. Tables XXIX and XXX give details of these cases and the corresponding figures for 1948.

TABLE XXIX—NUMBER OF NEW CASES OF PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING 1948 AND 1949, SUBDIVIDED ACCORDING TO SEX

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1948	180	173	353	28	20	48
1949	203	147	350	21	28	49

TABLE XXX—NUMBER OF CASES OF PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS WHICH CAME TO NOTICE OTHERWISE THAN BY NOTIFICATION DURING 1948 AND 1949, SUBDIVIDED ACCORDING TO SEX

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1948	30	28	58	—	3	3
1949	19	27	46	5	9	14

At the 31st December, 1949, there were 1,817 cases of pulmonary and 382 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis on the Chest Clinic Registers. Table XXXI shows these cases divided into men, women and children.



TABLE XXXI—NUMBER OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ON THE CHEST CLINIC REGISTERS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1949, SUBDIVIDED INTO PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY CASES

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Totals		
	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.	M.	W.	C.
Bedford	327	286	49	37	54	42	364	340	91
Luton ...	588	409	158	86	90	73	674	499	231
TOTALS ...	915	695	207	123	144	115	1,038	839	322

The number of attendances at the Chest Clinics during 1949 (including contacts) was 26,392, and 5,702 visits were paid to the homes of patients by the Tuberculosis Health Visitors. Home visits and examinations were made by the Chest Physicians as required.

### VENEREAL DISEASES

The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases. Clinics are held at Bedford General Hospital (South Wing) and Luton and Dunstable Hospital. Table XXXII gives details of the numbers of patients who attended the two clinics during the year and the numbers who were removed from the registers for various reasons.

There is undoubtedly an increased awareness of the facilities available for the treatment of venereal diseases and a willingness to seek examination and advice. Thus, included under "Other Conditions" are those persons who attended the clinics after having exposed themselves to the risk of contracting venereal disease and who wished to satisfy themselves that they were not infected.

TABLE XXXII—NUMBER OF PATIENTS ON REGISTERS OF V.D. CLINICS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1949, TOGETHER WITH ADDITIONS AND REMOVALS THEREFROM DURING 1949

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Other Conditions		Totals		Totals
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
No. of patients on register at 1st January, 1949 ...	135	126	87	28	44	50	266	204	470
No. of patients dealt with for first time during 1949	78	66	124	52	235	205	437	323	760
No. of patients restored to register during 1949 ...	13	2	8	4	4	8	25	14	39
TOTAL A ...	226	194	219	84	283	263	728	541	1,269
No. of cases removed from register in 1949 as:—									
(a) cured or D.N.C. ...	21	9	95	25	166	40	282	74	356
(b) defaulted ...	34	37	35	8	—	—	69	45	114
(c) died ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
(d) transferred for treatment elsewhere ...	40	24	18	7	2	3	60	34	94
TOTAL B ...	97	70	148	40	168	43	413	153	566
No. remaining on register at 31st December, 1949 (A-B) ...	129	124	71	44	115	220	315	388	703





## **SECTION IV**

---

### **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the County Council, as Food and Drugs authority for the Administrative County less the Boroughs of Bedford and Luton, is responsible for enforcing those provisions designed to secure that food and drugs are sold only in a pure and genuine condition. The local sanitary authorities are responsible for enforcing all the other provisions of the Act.

### MILK

252 samples of milk (including 18 appeal-to-cow samples) were submitted to the County Analyst for analysis during 1949. 26 (i.e., 10·3 per cent) were found to be abnormal. One of these contained extraneous water and was also deficient in fat; 8 contained extraneous water, but their fat content did not fall below the level presumed to indicate adulteration; 17 were deficient in fat only. Details are shown in Table XXXIII.

With regard to fat content, it may be pointed out that the real deficiency may be much greater than that given. The law presumes adulteration only if the milk contains less than 3 per cent milk fat. Table XXXIV shows that the average fat content of unadulterated samples examined was 3·58 per cent.

TABLE XXXIII—DETAILS OF ADULTERATED SAMPLES OF MILK AND ACTION TAKEN, 1949

Number of Sample	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity		Action Taken
1956	Fat deficient	%	Warning letter sent
2	Fat deficient	4·6	
(Informal)	Fat deficient	32·3	Appeal to Cow sample Advice given to farmer
36	Extraneous water	2·0	Warning letter sent
151	Fat deficient	26·0	Warning letter sent
163	Fat deficient	9·0	Warning letter sent
164	Fat deficient	22·0	Warning letter sent
197	Fat deficient	11·0	Warning letter sent
384	Fat deficient	25·0	Appeal to Cow sample Advice given to farmer
404	Fat deficient	9·3	Appeal to Cow sample Advice given to farmer
406	Fat deficient	5·0	Warning letter sent
282	Extraneous water	5·6	Followed up by formal sample which was satisfactory
(Informal)	Fat deficient	16·2	
507	Fat deficient	7·0	Warning letter sent
534	Fat deficient	3·0	Warning letter sent

Number of Sample	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity		Action Taken
538	Extraneous water	28·3	Fined £10 and £5 5s. 0d. Costs
552	Fat deficient	15·0	Warning letter sent
560	Fat deficient	18·0	Warning letter sent
578	Extraneous water	3·0	Further samples taken which were satisfactory
579	Fat deficient	5·0	Warning letter sent
583	Fat deficient	8·3	Warning letter sent
584	Fat deficient	8·0	Appeal to Cow sample Warning letter sent
767 (Informal)	Fat deficient	38·3	Formal sample taken which was satisfactory
784 (Informal)	Extraneous water	7·4	Formal samples taken which were satisfactory
785 (Informal)	Extraneous water	8·3	
786 (Informal)	Extraneous water	5·5	
788 (Informal)	Extraneous water	9·8	No action, as producer left district
789 (Informal)	Extraneous water	3·0	

TABLE XXXIV—MONTHLY AVERAGE FAT CONTENT OF ALL UNADULTERATED SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN DURING 1949

Month			Number of Samples	Milk Fat Content per cent
January	...	...	21	3·73
February	...	...	11	3·65
March	...	...	16	3·75
April	...	...	9	3·45
May	...	...	27	3·35
June	...	...	—	—
July	...	...	11	3·35
August	...	...	21	3·59
September	...	...	9	3·67
October	...	...	35	3·52
November	...	...	42	3·70
December	...	...	24	3·56
TOTALS			226	3·58



### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-1946

On the 1st October, 1949, the above regulations were revoked and responsibility for the licensing of designated milk producers was transferred from the County Council to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The number of designated farms in the County at the date of transfer was as follows:—

			<i>On Register</i>	<i>On Register</i>
			31.12.1948	30.9.1949
Tuberculin Tested	...		111	130
Accredited	...	...	76	70
			<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTALS	...		187	200
			<hr/>	<hr/>

### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

Under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, the County Council, as a Food and Drugs authority, became responsible for the licensing of pasteurising and sterilising plants. There was only one application received for a pasteurising licence during the period 1st October, 1949 to 31st December, 1949, and this was granted as from the 1st October, 1949.

There were no applications received for licences in respect of sterilising plants.

### MILK IN SCHOOLS SCHEME

146 schools received milk under the Milk in Schools Scheme and every endeavour was made to secure a designated supply to each. In 19 instances, however, it was only possible to supply non-designated milk. At the end of the year, approximately 82.2 per cent of the children were taking milk in school.

### BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

During the period 1st January to 30th September, 871 visits were made to cowsheds and dairy premises and 733 samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. 84.1 per cent of the routine samples complied with the standard for Designated Milk.

As already stated, the County Council ceased to be responsible for Designated Milk on the 30th September, 1949. Samples continue to be taken, however, of milk from Hospital Farms, milk supplied to schools, milk from pasteurising plants and pasteurised milk being retailed. Details of all samples submitted for bacteriological examination during the year are given in Table XXXV.

TABLE XXXV—NUMBER OF SAMPLES OF MILK SUBMITTED FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DURING 1949

Classification	Routine Samples		First Follow-up		Second Follow-up		Third Follow-up		Totals
	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	Sat.	Unsat.	
Samples taken prior to Designated * Licences being granted ...	41	6	4	1	1	—	—	—	53
Samples taken from Hospital Farms ...	20	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	24
Tuberculin Tested Milk ... ..	280	51	22	8	1	3	1	—	366
Accredited Milk ...	169	33	10	9	3	5	3	—	232
Heat Treated Milk ...	22	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	32
Samples taken from Schools ... ..	106	41	2	5	5	—	—	—	159
TOTALS ...	638	141	42	23	10	8	4	—	866

## BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

During the year 55 samples of milk were tested by Guinea Pig inoculation and 4 samples were found to contain Tubercle Bacilli. The facts were reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

## SAMPLES OTHER THAN MILK

The total number of samples of food and drugs, other than milk, examined during the year was 736 of which 12, or 1.63 per cent, were reported to be adulterated or otherwise irregular. Details of adulteration are given in Table XXXVI.



TABLE XXXVI—SAMPLES OF FOOD (OTHER THAN MILK) FOUND TO BE ADULTERATED DURING 1949, TOGETHER WITH PARTICULARS OF ADULTERATION AND ACTION TAKEN

Number of Sample	Article Purchased	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity	Action Taken
68a (Informal)	Pudding mixture	Cocoons, etc., present	Stock destroyed
68b (Informal)	Pudding mixture	Cocoons, etc., present	Stock destroyed
305 (Informal)	Solution of Iodine	Potassium Iodide deficient 30%	Formal sample taken. See No. 369
326 (Informal)	Salad Cream ...	Oil deficient 19·7%	Sample taken at request of vendor. Stock destroyed
368	Cochineal ...	Colouring matter not cochineal	No action. Covered by wording on label
369	Solution of Iodine	Potassium Iodide deficient 29%	Warning letter sent to wholesalers and manufacturers. Entire stock withdrawn
433 (Informal)	Tincture of Iodine	Potassium Iodide deficient 35·8%	Formal sample taken. See No. 610
610	Tincture of Iodine	Potassium Iodide deficient 34·1%	No action since it was uncertain whether sample was supplied to retailer before or after variation in B.P. standards
636 (Informal)	Tincture of Iodine	Iodine excess 16·4% Potassium Iodide deficient 25·9%	Formal sample not taken since it was uncertain whether sample was supplied to retailer before or after variation in B.P. standards. Retailer agreed to withdraw all existing stock
677 (Informal)	Salad Cream ...	Oil only 20·5%	Formal sample taken. See No. 739
686 (Informal)	Patent Groats ...	Cocoons, etc., present	Entire stock destroyed
739	Salad Cream ...	Oil only 20·5% Oil deficient 4·5%	Warning letter sent

### MERCHANDISE MARKS ACTS

Routine visits were made to premises and samples were taken. One instance of the sale of foreign produce not labelled as to country of origin was discovered. A successful prosecution was undertaken.

## **SECTION V**

---

### **RURAL HOUSING**



TABLE XXXVII—DETAILS OF RURAL HOUSING SURVEY AS AT THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1949

DISTRICT	Total No. of houses to be surveyed	No. of houses surveyed up to 31.12.49	Classification of houses surveyed— Numbers and percentages				
			1	2	3	4	5
Ampthill U.D.    ...	5,208	5,208	1,526 (29.3%)	1,644 (31.6%)	966 (18.5%)	906 (17.4%)	166 (3.2%)
Bedford R.D.    ...	7,000*	5,104*	1,685 (33.0%)	1,633 (32.0%)	1,276 (25.0%)	306 (6.0%)	204 (4.0%)
Biggleswade R.D.    ...	6,387	6,241	3,501 (56.1%)	1,685 (27.0%)	830 (13.3%)		225 (3.6%)
†Luton R.D.    ...	4,813	1,121	195 (17.4%)	492 (43.9%)	287 (25.6%)	25 (2.2%)	122 (10.9%)
TOTALS    ...	23,408	17,674	6,907 (39.1%)	5,454 (30.9%)	4,596 (26.0%)		717 (4.1%)

NOTES

- Class 1

Satisfactory in all respects.
- ”

2

Minor defects.
- ”

3

Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.
- Class 4

Appropriate for reconditioning under Housing Act, 1949.
- ”

5

Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.

\* Includes some houses with Rateable Value exceeding £20.  
† Figures given in 1947 Report related to a preliminary survey.

## RURAL HOUSING

The Housing Act, 1936, requires that every county council shall have constant regard to the housing conditions in the rural districts within the county, and that every rural district council shall each year furnish to the county council such information regarding housing as the county council may require.

In March, 1945, the local sanitary authorities commenced a survey of rural houses with a rateable value of £20 or less. The results of the survey up to the 31st December, 1947, were shown in the Annual Report for 1947. The position at the 31st December, 1949, is shown in Table XXXVII.

In addition to the work being done by the Rural District Councils in connection with existing housing accommodation, new houses are also being provided.

Information about certain of the new estates is given in the following paragraphs, and photographs showing the variety of houses provided appear on the middle pages of the report.

In the *Luton Rural District*, the Woodlands Avenue Estate in Houghton Regis obtained for the architect a Ministry of Health medal in 1950. There are 40 three-bedroomed houses, 2 four-bedroomed houses and 4 old people's bungalows. Many trees on the site have been retained including a fine old walnut tree as shown in Fig. 1. A general view of the estate is given in Fig. 2. All the houses are of 11 inch cavity brick construction with concrete tiled roofs and "Marley" tiled floors to ground floor rooms. Hot water is provided by a back boiler behind a continuous-burning convector heating grate. Two W.C.s are provided; one in the bathroom on the first floor and the other in an outbuilding.

The Bradford Road Estate, Toddington, also in the *Luton Rural District*, is in process of development. Some 90 of the 125 houses planned are either completed or in course of construction. Fig. 3 shows, from left to right, old people's bungalows, three-bedroomed houses and a four-bedroomed house. The general details are the same as for Woodlands Avenue.

The *Amphill Rural District Council* is developing a large estate at Flitwick. When completed, there will be more than 300 houses laid out round a permanent open space. Two-, three- and four-bedroomed houses are being built, both of the parlour and non-parlour types. They are of brick and tile construction, with wooden casement windows. Fig. 4 shows a typical terrace of three-bedroomed houses. In contrast are the rural type Mansard roofed cottages, shown in Fig. 5, which were designed by Professor A. E. Richardson. In addition to the permanent houses, 37 pre-fabricated bungalows have been erected.

The *Biggleswade Rural District Council* has paid particular attention at Stotfold to the housing of old people. Bungalows were designed for elderly couples who have to look after themselves. They have been built round a service road and overlook an open grass area which has been



relieved by planting trees. The front door is in the shelter of a small verandah which is provided with a seat. The living-room is entered from the hall and is heated by means of a solid-fuel grate fitted with a back boiler feeding the hot water system. The bedroom leads off the living-room and has double doors so that if one of the couple is bedridden the patient will not feel isolated. A bathroom and a small kitchen with a larder complete the accommodation. A store and fuel space are provided externally. Fig. 6 shows a pair of these bungalows.

In *Bedford Rural District*, the semi-detached houses shown in Fig. 7 are the Council's post-war type "J" which were designed especially for sites where the frontage is rather narrow. The rooms provided comprise a kitchen-dining room and a living-room on the ground floor, and three upstairs bedrooms. The bathroom is on the ground floor. Outbuildings consist of a coal barn, wash-house, and general purposes barn.

Semi-bungalow houses, either in pairs or rows of four, appear to be very suitable for use in the villages. The only row of four built so far is at Cardington and is shown in Fig. 8. The two end houses are exactly similar to those used in the pair of semi-bungalows and comprise a kitchen-dining room, living room, bedroom and bathroom on the ground floor and two bedrooms upstairs. The two middle houses differ in that they have a scullery and one large kitchen-dining room. The voids in the roof behind the upstairs bedroom walls are used for storage cupboards and built-in wardrobes. Outbuildings are similar to those provided for the "J" type houses. The internal fittings in both types of houses and, indeed, in all post-war Council houses, consist of a combination grate in the kitchen to provide space heating, cooking accommodation and hot water, 40 gallon storage of hot water in a large airing cupboard, a built-in dresser, built-in wardrobes, and the usual modern appliances. Where electricity is not already available the houses are wired in readiness for connection to the mains when they are brought to the parish.

## INDEX

	PAGE
Adjusted death rate ... ..	16
Adulteration, Milk ... ..	50
Adulteration, Other food ... ..	53, 54
Age and Sex distribution of population ... ..	7
Ambulance Service ... ..	35
Ampthill Rural District ... ..	6, 10, 13, 16, 40, 43, 56-58
Ampthill Urban District ... ..	6, 10, 13, 15, 16, 40, 43
Ante-natal Clinics ... ..	25
Area Comparability Factor ... ..	16
Area of County ... ..	6
Bedford and County Girls' Home ... ..	27
Bedford Borough ... ..	6, 10, 13, 16, 22, 40, 43
Bedford Rural District ... ..	6, 10, 13, 16, 40, 43, 56-58
Biggleswade Rural District ... ..	6, 7, 10, 13, 16, 40, 43, 56-58
Biggleswade Urban District ... ..	6, 10, 13, 16, 40, 43
Birth control ... ..	27
Birth injuries ... ..	13, 14, 17
Birth rate ... ..	9-12
Births ... ..	7, 9, 10, 12
Births, illegitimate ... ..	9, 10, 12
Births, legitimate ... ..	9, 10
British Red Cross Society ... ..	36
Bronchitis ... ..	13, 14, 17, 20
Cancer ... ..	9, 13, 14, 17
Care and After-care ... ..	36
Causes of death ... ..	13, 14, 17
Cerebral haemorrhage ... ..	17
Chest clinics ... ..	45, 46
Child Life protection ... ..	29
Child Population ... ..	8
Comforts depots ... ..	36
Congenital malformations ... ..	13, 14, 17, 20
County, Area of ... ..	6
County, Population of ... ..	6, 7
Day nurseries ... ..	29
Death rate ... ..	9, 12, 15, 16
Deaths ... ..	7, 9, 12-21
Deaths, age distribution of ... ..	14, 15
Deaths, causes of ... ..	13, 14, 17
Deaths, infant ... ..	10
Deaths, maternal ... ..	9, 20
Dental treatment ... ..	29
Diarrhoea, deaths from ... ..	9, 13, 14, 20
Diphtheria ... ..	40, 41
Diphtheria immunisation ... ..	33, 34, 36
Domestic help ... ..	37
Domiciliary midwifery ... ..	30, 31
Duly Authorised Officers ... ..	37, 38
Dunstable Borough ... ..	6, 10, 13, 16, 40, 43
England and Wales	
Birth rate ... ..	11
Death rate ... ..	16
Illegitimate births ... ..	12
Infant mortality rate ... ..	11, 21
Stillbirth rate ... ..	11
Food, inspection and supervision of ... ..	50
Gonorrhoea ... ..	46, 47
Gynaecological clinics ... ..	27
Health centre ... ..	24
Health Education ... ..	36
Health visiting ... ..	32



	PAGE
Health visitors ... ..	32
Heart disease ... ..	13, 14, 17, 18
Home help ... ..	37
Home nursing ... ..	32
Hospital Car Service ... ..	35
Housing, Rural ... ..	56-58
Illegitimate births ... ..	9, 10, 12, 27
Illness, prevention of ... ..	36
Immunisation ... ..	33, 34, 36
Infant deaths ... ..	10, 20, 21
Infant mortality rate ... ..	9-11, 20, 21
Infant welfare centres ... ..	26, 27
Infectious diseases, notifiable ... ..	40
Kempston Urban District ... ..	6, 10, 13, 16, 40, 43
Legitimate births ... ..	9, 10, 12
Leighton Buzzard Urban District ... ..	6, 10, 13, 16, 40, 43
Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts ... ..	38
Luton Borough ... ..	6, 10, 13, 15, 16, 22, 40, 43
Luton Rural District ... ..	6, 10, 13, 16, 40, 43, 56-58
Maternal deaths ... ..	9, 20
Maternal mortality rate ... ..	9, 20
Measles ... ..	9, 13, 14, 40, 44
Medical Comforts ... ..	36
Mental Deficiency Acts ... ..	38
Mental Health ... ..	37, 38
Merchandise Marks Acts ... ..	54
Midwifery ... ..	30, 31
Milk ... ..	50-53
Milk in Schools Scheme ... ..	52
Mothers and young children, care of ... ..	24-30
National Health Service Act, 1946 ... ..	24
Notifiable infectious diseases ... ..	40
Nursing homes ... ..	38
Occupation centres ... ..	37
Occupational Therapist ... ..	36
Pneumonia ... ..	13, 14, 17, 20, 40
Polioencephalitis ... ..	13, 14, 40, 41-44
Poliomyelitis ... ..	13, 14, 40, 41-44
Population ... ..	6-8
Population, age sex distribution of ... ..	7
Population, increase in ... ..	7
Post-natal clinics ... ..	24
Premature infants ... ..	27, 28
Prematurity ... ..	13, 14, 17, 20
Prevention of illness ... ..	36
Pulmonary tuberculosis ... ..	13, 14, 17, 20, 45, 46
Rateable value of County ... ..	6
Regional Hospital Board ... ..	37, 45, 47
Rural Districts	
Birth rate ... ..	10, 11
Births ... ..	10
Death rate ... ..	16
Deaths ... ..	13-16
Infant deaths ... ..	10, 20
Infant mortality rate ... ..	10, 11
Population ... ..	6
Stillbirth rate ... ..	10, 11
Stillbirths ... ..	10
Tuberculosis ... ..	20
Rural housing ... ..	56-58
St. John Ambulance Brigade ... ..	36
Sandy Urban District ... ..	6, 10, 13, 40, 43
Scarlet fever ... ..	40, 41

	PAGE
Sex age distribution of population ... ..	7
Social conditions ... ..	22
Staff ... ..	4
Stillbirth rate ... ..	9-12
Stillbirths ... ..	9, 10, 12
Syphilis ... ..	13, 14, 46, 47
Tuberculosis ... ..	13, 14, 20, 36, 45, 46
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary ... ..	13, 14, 20, 45, 46
Tuberculosis, pulmonary ... ..	13, 14, 17, 20, 45, 46
Tuberculosis visitors ... ..	36, 45, 46
Tuberculous patients ... ..	36, 45, 46
Unemployment ... ..	22
Unmarried mothers ... ..	27
Urban Districts	
Birth rate ... ..	10, 11
Births ... ..	10
Death rate ... ..	16
Deaths ... ..	13-16
Infant deaths ... ..	10, 20
Infant mortality rate ... ..	10, 11
Population ... ..	6
Stillbirth rate ... ..	10, 11
Stillbirths ... ..	10
Tuberculosis ... ..	20
Vaccination ... ..	33
Venereal diseases ... ..	46, 47
Whooping Cough ... ..	9, 13, 14, 20, 44



---

HENRY BURT & SON LTD  
PRINTERS :: BEDFORD

---